



Denise Parodi

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Denise Parodi

SCHOOL: Berney Elementary School

Position: 2nd Grade Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 12 years

Q. What are some of the projects your students are working on?

A. We're studying the life cycle of the butterfly. We're integrating as many different topics as we can by bringing in reading and writing. We find we can capitalize on other areas because they are so interested in the subject.

Q. How do you use technology to help students learn?

A. Last week the students finished their PowerPoint presentations on the life cycle of the butterfly. They researched this topic for two weeks. I have a smart board in my classroom that I use all the time.

Q. What is your "daily five" instructional model?

A. This is a program where students: read to self, read to someone, work on writing, listen to reading, and do word work where we typically work on their spelling.

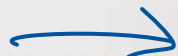
Q. Why is this program effective?

A. The students are really engaged because they get to make choices. If they are reading a chapter book and can't wait to get back to it, then they can choose to read for 30 minutes. They can also choose to do writing or something else. They don't always get to choose what they want to do, but the daily five program allows them to make more choices.

Q. Why is it important to make these choices on their own?

A. At 2nd grade students can be independent learners. I think it's really important for them to self manage so they don't always need me right there telling them what to do. They need to be able to make good choices to be lifelong learners.

Over



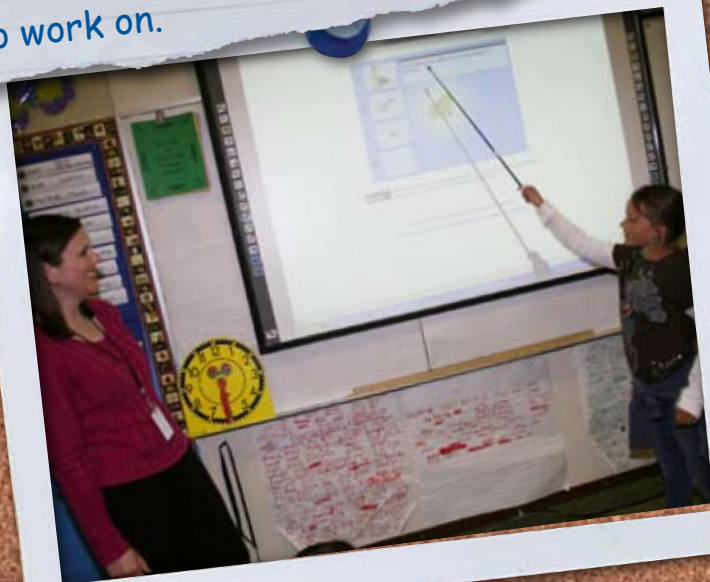
MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
DENISE PARODI'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM DENISE...

It's powerful to have the kids all day. I really get to know their strengths and weaknesses. Students who struggle in math might not struggle in other areas. By having them all day I get to see across the board the areas we need to work on.

I'm excited to use online grades electronic report cards. There won't be any surprises. Parents will be able to access this information at any time, so it will improve communications.



I've seen the level of what is expected of students go up in the 12 years I've been teaching. It's my job to challenge them to meet all their needs.